

Dear Caroline Lucas MP,

10 March 2020

Publishing the truth is never a crime.

Wikileaks, the UK Guardian, the New York Times, and the Washington Post, published details of war crimes, and worldwide corruption by governments, including the 'collateral murder' video of a Reuters journalist and innocent civilians being machine gunned from a helicopter in cold blood by jeering US military soldiers, none of whom have been charged.

For the USA to attempt to extradite and prosecute the editor of Wikileaks Julian Assange, but not the other editors for revealing war crimes, is a disgusting and utterly unacceptable perversion of legal process.

Trump's request for Julian's extradition rests entirely on the absurd argument that the UK/US Extradition Treaty of 2007 is legally enforceable, but that specifically Clause 4.i of that Treaty, which forbids extradition for political offences, has no standing in law (details below).

Julian has been accused only of a peaceful political act of publishing fully redacted information. It is associates of the UK Guardian who have alone published passwords to un-redacted versions possibly revealing the identity of vulnerable individuals, but no cases have been cited, because there are none, as the CIA themselves recently admitted.

Such actions against Julian alone, are blatant bullying of the weakest by the Trump administration, who are claiming global jurisdiction for an alleged act – not even committed in the USA – of publishing war crime truths.

Julian has not been convicted of anything. But the UK authorities are treating him worse than the most violent convicted terrorists, subjecting him to entirely unnecessary handcuffed strip searches, apparently heavily medicated, with lack of access to his lawyers and legal papers.

During the four days of proceedings in February this year, the court heard that Julian and his lawyers at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London were for years regularly monitored by a Spanish security company that had secretly bugged the embassy and transmitted the collected information to US intelligence services. This fundamental breach of lawyer-client confidentiality alone means Julian's extradition application must be rejected, and Julian immediately released.

Julian was forced to sit in a bulletproof glass box, without access to his lawyers to properly frame his defence, not being able to hear proceedings, and under constant surveillance by prison officers. All with the approval of presiding magistrate Vanessa Baraitser, who ruled that Julian must be in another glass box when the extradition hearing resumes on 18th May.

The United Nation's Special Rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer says "a murderous system is being created before our very eyes", describing Julian's treatment as psychological torture with made-up rape allegation and fabricated evidence in Sweden, pressure from the UK not to drop the case, a biased judge, and detention in a maximum security prison.

These conditions are incompatible with Julian's status as an innocent remand prisoner, and are unprecedented globally, let alone in the UK, both now and historically.

To justify the continued incarceration and torture of Julian, the prosecution, supported by Magistrate Vanessa Baraitser, argue that because extradition for political offences is not explicitly mentioned in the the UK Extradition Act of 2003, extradition for political acts is permitted.

But Baraitser and the the prosecution have deeply erred in law: 1. Julian's extradition is being pursued under the US UK Extradition Treaty of 2007, which explicitly EXCLUDES extradition for political offences. 2. The 2003 Act is an Act designed to enable treaties, such as the 2007 US UK Extradition Treaty, i.e. the 2003 Act deliberately leaves specifics to the treaties it enables. 3. Further, at paragraph 21A (1) (a) of the 2003 Act, human rights – political free speech – are deferred to Article 53 of the European Convention of Human Rights, which prohibits abrogation of rights present in other laws and treaties, rights such as the exclusion of extradition on political grounds in the 2007 US UK Extradition Treaty, even when not specifically mentioned in the 2003 Act.

Such appalling and flagrant disregard of legal process and norms, otherwise accepted globally as the bedrock of democracy and free speech, means no justice can be expected at the hands of the corrupt British courts.

Do you personally believe political offences should be extraditable?

What do you think the impact of such corrupt legal process might be worldwide on political dissidents in exile?

I demand you now speak out in the UK parliament and in loudly public against these abuses and act by personally writing an open letter to the Home Secretary demanding Julian's immediate release from custody and the complete abandonment of the disgraceful conditions in which he is being forced to endure whilst defending the corrupt groundless claims against him.

The sub judice rules do not apply to the current proceedings against Julian at the London courts, because the “administration of justice” itself is clearly being perverted as detailed here above. Indeed your failing to speak out loudly and publicly would cause further “substantial risk that the course of justice would be seriously impeded or prejudiced.”

Regards,

Natasha

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